

**Minimum Qualifications for Obtaining a Section 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit for
Conducting Intensive Surveys for the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)**
(Version Date: July 21, 2017)

The surveys referred to in this document are intensive surveys for California red-legged frog (e.g. capture by hand, dipnet, or seine) with greater potential impacts than the visual encounter surveys described in the Service's 2005 Guidance on Surveys for the California red-legged frog (Service 2005). Performing visual encounter surveys alone would not require a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit (Permit).

Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended, prohibits the "take" of federally-listed species. The term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. For this reason, a Permit is required to conduct intensive surveys and specialized permit activities for the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) (CRLF, hereafter) because survey activities (e.g., capture, handle, etc.) meet the definition of "take" for the species. Unless otherwise specified by an appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office (Service), surveys for CRLF will be conducted in accordance with the most recent Service-approved Guidance (currently Service 2005, but subject to revision at any time) and follow all Special Terms and Conditions as specified in the issued recovery permit for conducting these types of authorized activities.

The Service may authorize intensive surveys (i.e., harass by survey, capture, handle, measure, and release) within the entire geographic range, or a portion of the range where the species may occur. An applicant may be permitted for conducting surveys for adult, juvenile, and larval CRLF.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

In order for an individual to be authorized to independently conduct intensive surveys for CRLF, they must provide verifiable documentation accompanying their recovery permit application that identifies that they have completed the following requirements:

1. For surveys including capture (hand, dipnet, seine):

- a. The applicant must have 30 hours of documented field experience conducting surveys including capture (hand, dipnet, seine) under the direct supervision of a permitted CRLF biologist.
- b. The survey experience must be acquired through a minimum of three (3) independent survey events in which the CRLF is encountered.
- c. The survey experience should be acquired at a minimum of two (2) separate geographic locations (e.g., two different aquatic features).
- d. During these 30 hours the applicant must successfully capture, handle, measure, and release at least 2 adult or juvenile CRLF and at least 5 larvae without injury or mortality.
- e. During these 30 hours the applicant must have observed at least one egg mass of the CRLF; handling of egg masses is not authorized and would require specific justification and permitting.

- f. Negative surveys may count for up to 4 hours toward the 30-hour requirement.
- g. One formal training workshop with a field component conducted by a permittee may count for up to 4 hours toward the 30-hour requirement.
- e. The applicant must be trained in disinfecting equipment and clothing before and after entering the aquatic habitat.

2. Verifiable Documentation:

The applicant must document their field experience acquired under supervision and submit the following information with their recovery permit application:

- a. The name(s) of the supervising permitted individual(s) and their associated permit number(s);
- b. Dates and hours of field experience and the type of activity conducted (surveys, seining, dip netting, handling, *etc.*);
- c. The number and age class of all CRLF detected, observed, and handled in the wild;
- d. The specific locations where the observations were made (including the County); and
- e. A letter of recommendation from at least one supervising individual (preferably someone other than the applicant's co-worker or current employer) verifying the applicant's ability to:
 - i. Consistently handle all adults, metamorphs (young of the year), juveniles, and larvae (tadpoles) without injury or mortality. Eggs must be observed but they must not be handled or disturbed.
 - ii. Identify and diagnose egg masses, tadpoles and juveniles/adults of the CRLF from other co-occurring anuran species. Surveyors must be familiar with the distinguishing physical characteristics of all life stages of the CRLF, other anurans of California, and with introduced, exotic species such as the bullfrog and the African clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*).
 - iii. Identify the CRLF by calls of the adult male.
- f. We recommend that an experience table be submitted with your application following the sample template below.

Survey Experience with the California red-legged frog. (Your name here)

Date	Location (include county)	Permitted Individual (supervising) and permit #	Hours of Survey	Type of Survey/activity	Species name, life stage and # handled or observed	Other notes
March 22, 2012	Big Gun Conservation Bank, Placer County	John Smith (TE-000000)	8	Daytime survey; Dip-net/hand-capture	Handled 5 <i>R. draytonii</i> larvae; observed 2 <i>R. draytonii</i> adults	Measured, photographed, and released. Surveyed 6 ponds.

Specialized Permit Activities:

Specialized permit activities will not be authorized without demonstrated proficiency in conducting the requested activities under the supervision of a permitted biologist.

Specialized activities for CRLF may include, but are not limited to:

1. Temporarily mark or tag.
2. Perform egg tray surveys and/or egg counts, or any activity that would involve handling, moving, or otherwise disturb egg masses.
3. Collect and preserve specimens for reference (voucher) or research collections.
4. Collect genetic material, tissue samples, or skin swabs.
5. Conduct workshops that involve training in survey by capture (hand, dipnet, seine) .
6. Attach belt harness with transmitter, and conduct radio-telemetry.
7. Transport, captive breed, captive rear, and/or translocate.
8. Administer veterinary care, and/or euthanize.

For additional recovery permitting information or how to qualify for specialized activities, contact the Recovery Permit Coordinator at the applicable Fish and Wildlife Office that is nearest you. Contact information can be found on our minimum qualifications webpage at: <https://www.fws.gov/cno/es/minqual.html>

**This document may be revised at any time at the discretion of the Service.